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**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 8, 2011**

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CITY, AFSCME SIGN FIVE-YEAR LABOR AGREEMENT

Burlington, VT. The City of Burlington and the City's AFSCME bargaining unit have signed a five-year labor agreement. The agreement was ratified by AFSCME membership and subsequently approved by the City Council at its May 16 meeting. Burlington Mayor Bob Kiss and AFSCME representatives Bill Rasch, Brandi Barbeau, George Lovell, and Lynn Brelsford executed the final agreement at the end of the day yesterday. In total, AFSCME represents X City employees.

The five-year agreement is retroactive to July 1, 2009, when the prior contract expired, and extends to June 30, 2014. City and AFSCME bargaining units have been engaged in bargaining for the last two years. Highlights of the new agreement include:

- Cost of Living Adjustments (COLAs) for employees of 1.75%, 2.0%, and 2.1% effective July 1, 2009, July 1, 2010, and July 1, 2011 respectively. COLAs for fiscal years 2013 and 2014 shall be based on the Consumer Price Index but in no event shall be less than 2% or more than 4%.
- Beginning July 1, 2011, employee contributions to healthcare will increase or decrease based on the percentage change in the costs of the monthly premium to the City, with a cap on the percentage increases.

- Retirement changes related to the actuarial reduction for current employees retiring between the ages of 55 and 60 as well as the number of years of pay used to calculate retirement benefits.

Burlington Mayor Bob Kiss praised the agreement. “I appreciate the hard work of the bargaining teams and the support of AFSCME membership and the City Council as we have worked through the details of this agreement. At the end of a long process we have a contract that maintains good jobs for a highly committed and productive workforce and puts us, together, on a sustainable path for the retirement system.”

Bill Rasch, a Parks and Recreation Department employee and vice-president of AFSCME Local 1343 said “After a 2 year process we are pleased with the results not only for our members but taxpayers as well because we believe we have met our responsibilities for the sustainability of the pension system.”

Copies of the contract are available upon request.